

FOI REF: 25/901

Eastbourne District General Hospital

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Eastbourne
East Sussex
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16th January 2026

Tel: 0300 131 4500
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FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT

I am responding to your request for information under the Freedom of Information Act. The answers to your specific questions are as follows:

Please provide the following information for your organisation for the period 1 January 2022 to 31 December 2025 (inclusive).

1. Mental health presentations to A&E / Emergency Department

Total number of mental health-related A&E attendances

The total number of people who presented to A&E / ED with a mental health-related complaint, regardless of outcome, using your routine coding definitions (e.g. presenting complaint, diagnosis, or mental health liaison referral).

Please briefly state the definition or coding framework used.

[Please see the attached document: 'FOI 25-901 Waits for Psychiatric Beds A&E'.](#)

2. Waiting for an inpatient psychiatric bed

Number of people who waited for a psychiatric bed

The total number of people who were:

- a. in A&E / ED, or
- b. on a non-psychiatric inpatient ward (e.g. medical or surgical ward), in specialist hospital who were assessed as needing admission or transfer to an inpatient psychiatric bed (of any type) and had to wait for a psychiatric bed to become available.

[Please see the attached document: 'FOI 25-901 Waits for Psychiatric Beds A&E'.](#)

3. Waiting time for psychiatric beds

For the group above, please provide either:

- a. the total cumulative number of hours spent waiting from the decision to admit/transfer to a psychiatric bed until your routine endpoint (e.g. admission, decision that admission was no longer required, discharge, or leaving the department), or,**
- b. if cumulative hours are not held, the average (mean) waiting time, and please state the unit used (hours).**

Please briefly describe:

- c. the start point used for measuring the wait (e.g. decision to admit, referral), and**
- d. the endpoint used.**

[Please see the attached document: 'FOI 25-901 Waits for Psychiatric Beds A&E'.](#)

Breakdown (if readily available and within cost limits)

- If possible, please provide the above figures broken down by year.**
- If monthly breakdowns for January–December 2025 are readily available, please include these.**
- Please indicate whether an age-group breakdown (e.g. adults, older adults, CAMHS) is available, but only if this can be provided within the usual FOI cost and time limits.**

[Please see the attached document: 'FOI 25-901 Waits for Psychiatric Beds A&E'.](#)

[Please note that East Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust does not provide a Mental Health Service. This service is provided by Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust who are the Mental Health Trust for this area. Therefore, patients waiting for transfer to a psychiatric bed would be transferred to Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust, their Freedom of Information email address is:-](#)

spft.foi@nhs.net

If I can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Should you be dissatisfied with the Trust's response to your request, you have the right to request an internal review. Please write to the Freedom of Information Department (esh-tr.foi@nhs.net), quoting the above reference, within 40 working days. The Trust is not obliged to accept an internal review after this date.

Should you still be dissatisfied with your FOI request, you have the right of complaint to the Information Commissioner at the following address:

The Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire SK9 5AF

Telephone: 0303 123 1113

Yours sincerely

Freedom of Information Department
esh-tr.foi@nhs.net

1. Mental health presentations to A&E / Emergency Department



a. Total number of mental health–related A&E attendances

The total number of people who presented to A&E / ED with a mental health–related complaint, regardless of outcome, using your routine coding definitions (e.g. presenting complaint, diagnosis, or mental health liaison referral).

Sum of Tot Att Year	Ageband U18	Adult(18-64)	Adult(65+)	Grand Total
2022	761	3784	544	5089
2023	682	4027	551	5260
2024	654	4723	649	6026
2025	770	5015	735	6520
Grand Total	2867	17549	2479	22895

Year 2025 split by month

Sum of Tot Att Year	Ageband U18	Adult(18-64)	Adult(65+)	Grand Total
Jan	61	409	59	529
Feb	52	315	53	420
Mar	66	398	61	525
Apr	40	363	41	444
May	64	409	54	527
Jun	77	430	45	552
Jul	64	453	68	585
Aug	62	485	71	618
Sep	81	430	84	595
Oct	59	471	67	597
Nov	70	438	77	585
Dec	74	414	55	543
Grand Total	770	5015	735	6520

Criteria for Mental Health ED attendances:

Any Chief complaint or presenting complaint from the below or any self-injured or any diagnose of the group Mental Health at any position from the list of diagnosis in the Emergency Care Date Set Diagnosis Max

ECDS Chief Complaint

Self-harm

Depressive feelings

Feeling suicidal

Feeling anxious

Behaviour : unusual

Behaviour : violent

Behaviour : agitation

Hallucinations

Delusions

ED Presenting Complaint

Feeling suicidal

Depressive feelings

Self-harm

Hallucinations/Delusions

FOI 25/901 Waits for Psychiatric Beds (A&E and Inpatient Wards)

2. Waiting for an inpatient psychiatric bed

Number of people who waited for a psychiatric bed

The total number of people who were:

- in A&E / ED, or
- on a non-psychiatric inpatient ward (e.g. medical or surgical ward), in specialist hospital who were assessed as needing admission or transfer to an inpatient psychiatric bed (of any type) and had to wait for a psychiatric bed to become available.

Number of Inpatients in Calendar Year 2025 - 457 Patients	
	No. of Patients
CAMHS	8
Adults - 18 - 65yrs	373
Older Adults - >65 yrs	76

3. Waiting time for psychiatric beds

For the group above, please provide either:

- the total cumulative number of hours spent waiting from the decision to admit/transfer to a psychiatric bed until your routine endpoint (e.g. admission, decision that admission was no longer required, discharge, or leaving the department), or,
- if cumulative hours are not held, the average (mean) waiting time, and please state the unit used (hours).

Total number of Hours waited broken down by Age	
	Hours
CAMHS	957
Adults - 18 - 65yrs	50,999
Older Adults - >65 yrs	24,539

Average Number of Hours waited by Age	
	Hours
CAMHS	119.62
Adults - 18 - 65yrs	137.09
Older Adults - >65 yrs	327.18

Please briefly describe:

- the start point used for measuring the wait (e.g. decision to admit, referral), and
- the endpoint used.

When a request is made for a Psychiatric bed, we first search if Psychiatric bed has been requested, and then the time/date that the request is made.

Using this information we are then able to retrieve the difference between when the bed was requested and when the patient was transferred from the Trust.